

Washington D.C., March 20, 2008 – Congressman Ryan today congratulated Lockheed Martin and the entire High Altitude Airship (HAA) program for the transfer from the Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. The move will keep the High Altitude Airship in development and will keep jobs in Akron. Congressman Ryan is a longtime supporter of the program and has fought hard in Congress to provide the necessary funding for HAA.

“As a longtime supporter of the HAA and one of its greatest advocates in Congress, I want to give my heartfelt congratulations to the management and labor force at Lockheed Martin, and in Akron who are working so hard to build this airship,” Said Congressman Tim Ryan. “I will continue to be a partner as this important program moves forward and will do everything I can in Congress to ensure its success.”

“Keeping these jobs in our community is great for the citizens of Summit County. Congratulations to Lockheed Martin for the great work they do and many thanks to Congressman Tim Ryan for his support,” said Summit County Executive Russ Pry

The HAA will be designed to operate autonomously in the stratosphere for long periods of time (greater than six months) as a stable, geostationary platform suitable for communications, sensors, and weapons. Operating at 60,000 feet, the unmanned aircraft would be able to perform valuable command and control and reconnaissance duties for the armed forces. It will be housed at Lockheed's Airdock in Akron.

